

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 131005Z NOV 74
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1358
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 2432

RABAT FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AG, US
SUBJ: RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS-ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS

1. RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA IS NOT GOING TO CHANGE OUR ROLE HERE NOTICEABLY, BUT IT WILL INCREASE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE WORKLOAD. AMBASSADOR WILL BE EXPECTED DO THINGS FROM WHICH CHIEF USINT EXCUSED, AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN WHO HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT COME HERE IN ABSENCE OF RELATIONS WILL ADD THEIR NUMBERS TO ALREADY LARGE VOLUME OF VISITORS, AND WE WILL HAVE INCREASED DEMANDS ON US FROM OTHER AGENCIES, SOME OF WHICH WILL WISH STATION PERSONNEL HERE. IN SHORT, POST WILL HAVE TO BE UPGRADED AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF ANOMALOUS STATUS.

2. INSPECTORS AND I AGREE:

(A) PRIMARY SHORTCOMINGS OF POST AT PRESENT ARE IN FIELD OF ADMINISTRATION, AND PARTICULARLY IN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY.

(B) MAJOR EMPHASIS OF POST SHOULD BE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RATHER THAN POLITICAL MATTERS.

(C) ANY INCREASE IN POST PERSONNEL SHOULD BE KEPT TO MINIMUM AND WE SHOULD NOT RECEIVE ANY MORE PERSONNEL
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UNTIL WE HAVE OFFICE AND RESIDENCE QUARTERS FOR THEM.

3. STAFFING; (A) I NOW VISUALIZE ONLY TWO ADDITIONAL OFFICERS: (1) DCM AND (2) A CONSULAR OFFICER. DEPENDING ON DEVELOPMENTS, IT MAY BE NECESSARY ADD A JUNIOR ECONOMIC OFFICER AND A SECRETARY. ALL PERSONNEL SHOULD BE ABLE COMMUNICATE IN FRENCH.

(1) DCM SHOULD BE EXPERIENCE FRENCH SPEAKER WITH ENOUGH ECONOMIC BACKGROUND TO ENABLE HIM TO FOLLOW OIL AND OTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS. WOULD PREFER HE ALSO BE ARABIST IF THAT IS POSSIBLE. HE SHOULD IN ANY EVENT HAVE SOME PREVIOUS AREA EXPERIENCE AND I WOULD HOPE SOME ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE AS WELL. HIS RANK SHOULD BE FSO-3 OR JUNIOR FSO-2.

(2) CONSULAR OFFICER WOULD BE EMPLOYED APPROXIMATELY 60 PERCENT OF TIME ON CONSULAR MATTERS AND 40 PERCENT ON COMMERCIAL. OFFICER SHOULD HAVE PREVIOUS CONSULAR AND, IF POSSIBLE, COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCE. S-3, R-3 FRENCH ESSENTIAL. HE SHOULD BE FSO-5 OR BELOW.

(B) TIMING DO NOT WANT NEW DCM TO ARRIVE BEFORE NEXT SUMMER. WILL NOT HAVE SUITABLE QUARTERS FOR HIM BEFORE THEN. CONSULAR OFFICER, PARTICULARLY IF UNMARRIED, COULD COME SOONER BUT WE WOULD WANT FIRST TO MAKE SURE WE HAD HOUSING.

(C) MARINE GUARDS POST COULD USE MARINE GUARDS BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHERE WE WOULD PUT THEM. AT THIS POINT WE HAVE NO QUARTERS AVAILABLE WHICH COULD ACCOMMODATE THEM. PARTICULARLY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF A NCOIC WHO BROUGHT FAMILY WITH HIM. PLEASE HOLD THIS QUESTION IN ABEYANCE.

(D) MILITARY ATTACHE WE HAVE NO SPACE AT PRESENT EITHER IN TERMS OF OFFICE OR HOUSING TO ACCOMMODATE A MILITARY ATTACHE. GIVEN COMPLETE LACK OF MEANINGFUL CONTACT WITH ALGERIAN MILITARY EXPERIENCED BY OTHER ATTACHES HERE, WE DOUBT THAT MUCH USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY ASSIGNING ONE HERE NOW AND I WOULD PREFER TO

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DELAY A DECISION ON THIS UNTIL WE MAKE SOME PROGRESS ON SPACE PROBLEM.

4. SECURITY

(1) POST HAS NOT BUDGETED ENOUGH MONEY FOR SECURITY IN PAST. RESIDENCE, FOR EXAMPLE, IS UNGUARDED AND RESIDENCE GROUNDS LARGELY UNLIT AT NIGHT. ADEQUATE

LIGHTING OF COURSE REQUIRES UPGRADED ELECTRICAL SYSTEM REFERRED TO BELOW.

(2) WE NEED AT LEAST ANOTHER \$25,000 FOR FY 1975 FOR SECURITY PURPOSES (\$20,000 FOR GUARDS, AND \$5,000 FOR WORK ON CHANCERY RECOMMENDED BY RSO). WE WILL BE MAKING DETAILED REQUEST SEPARATELY.

5. PROPERTY BOTH RESIDENCE (OUR ONLY FBO PROPERTY) AND CHANCERY BADLY NEED REFURBISHING AND MAINTENANCE. FBO REGIONAL OFFICER NISONGER HAS SEEN THEM AND CAN GIVE DEPARTMENT PROFESSIONAL REPORT, BUT FOLLOWING IS OUR BREAKDOWN:

(A) RESIDENCE NEEDS REPAINTING AND REWIRING, FURNITURE NEEDS RECOVERING AND REFINISHING, MANY WINDOWS LACK CURTAINS, ERRATIC PLUMBING FIXTURES NEED NEW INSIDES, KITCHEN NEEDS REMODELING, AND SOME MINOR STRUCTURAL REPAIRS, SUCH AS RELAYING OF TILE IN ENTRY COURTYARD, ARE NEEDED.

(B) CHANCERY NEEDS PAINTING, NEW CARPETS, AND NEW FURNITURE PLUS SECURITY MODIFICATIONS RECOMMENDED BY RSO, WITH WHICH I AGREE.

(C) RESIDENCE WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED NOTIFICATION OF ALLOTMENT OF \$13,500 FOR FBO PROPERTIES. THIS WILL TAKE CARE OF SOME OF RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS, BUT NOT ALL. MISONGER SUGGESTS WE SUBMIT SPECIAL PROJECT REQUEST FOR RELAYING OF TILE AND WE WILL DO SO. WE ARE ALSO GETTING ESTIMATE ON REMODELING KITCHEN AND ON P E D. WE

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WILL PUT IN REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS IN DUE COURSE AS NEEDED. WE NEED, HOWEVER, SOME ADVICE ON UPHOLSTERY MATERIALS AND SOME HELP WITH REFINISHING FROM QUALIFIED FBO DECORATOR. REQUEST ONE BE SENT HERE ASAP.

(D) CHANCERY HOPE DECORATOR CAN ALSO HELP US WITH REFURBISHING OFFICE WHICH NOW LOOKS SOMETHING LIKE LOBBY OF RUNDOWN HOTEL IN LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH IT WILL COST, BUT WILL NOT BE CHEAP.

6. SPACE IF WE ARE TO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MORE PERSONNEL, WE NEED MORE LIVING SPACE. WE ARE NOW PAYING \$20,000 A YEAR FOR VILLAS WHICH SHOULD BE RENTED FOR

\$5,000, AND PRICES ARE GOING UP EVERY DAY. IT WOULD BE
GREAT SAVING TO USG IN LONG RUN IF WE COULD BUILD UNIT
OF THREE OR FOUR SMALL APARTMENTS ON LOWER REACHES OF RESIDENCE
PROPERTY. I REALIZE THIS IS NOT TIME TO ASK FBO FOR MONEY,
BUT IT IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE FOUND
IF WE ARE EVER GOING TO HAVE ANY ASSURANCE AS TO OUR
ABILITY TO HOUSE PEOPLE.
PARKER

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